

**OPEN MEETING MINUTES
WAUKESHA COUNTY
TEMPORARY CHAPTER 980 COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2019**

PRESENT: Erik Weidig, Jason Fruth, Angie Serwa, Jason Popp, Mrs. Waite

NOT PRESENT: Antwayne Robertson, Dale Shaver

In the absence of Chair Robertson, the meeting was called to order by Erik Weidig at 2:31 p.m.

One correction required to the October 31 minutes. MOTION: Fruth moved, second by Serwa to approve the October 31, 2019 minutes. Motion carried 4 - 0.

Robertson continues to routinely provide information to housing vendors every Wednesday or Thursday. The last property search was run on November 14. There was no interest from vendors on those properties. The agent for the Nashotah property on Oakland Road has been contacted, awaiting a return phone call. The Lannon Road, Menomonee Falls property is off the market.

Fruth noted that one property for sale is a lake property on Lakeview Dr. in Merton. This property is a cottage that has no plumbing and cannot have plumbing due to septic issues. It is not a suitable property.

Popp reported that the Pewaukee Condo has been sold. Popp had conversation with vendors which yielded no interest in the Delafield property.

At the last meeting, there was a property on the sale list that was particularly promising because it is very rural. Weidig will circle back with Robertson on the status of that property.

Weidig gave a court update. As reported at the last Temporary Chapter 980 meeting, the Public Defender filed a motion seeking to require Waukesha County to purchase, build, or acquire a residence. The hearing date on that motion is this Thursday, November 21. Weidig filed opposition to this motion.

Previously discussed Senate and Assembly bills relating to changes to 980 laws have passed both houses. The most relevant change is the removal of the strict 1500 foot separation requirement. Now, proximity is to be considered. In light of passage of this bill, the state Public Defender filed a motion to require the Temporary Chapter 980 Committee to immediately search for properties without regard to location, essentially. Weidig has not yet responded to that motion. A bill does not become a law until signed by the Governor. When the Governor signs and it becomes law, the Temporary Chapter 980 Committee will change the search parameters. The bill may make it to the Governor's desk by December 5 if not requested sooner. Other changes were to extend the time from 120 days to 180 days, and provides for the county to request the court to make a finding that the county is making a good faith effort to locate appropriate housing.

Serwa talked about language added to the bill that essentially could be interpreted that any placement in a residence currently outside of Waukesha County would need to be brought back into Waukesha County. Discussed the meaning of pending petition. The effective date for that law is March 30, 2018 and Serwa will look at placements of four individuals placed since that date.

In response to Robertson’s request to know the number of Waukesha County offenders currently committed under Chapter 980, Serwa stated that four are already placed in counties other than Waukesha. There are currently nine individuals at Sand Ridge committed from Waukesha County.

Discussed setting a regularly scheduled meeting date for this group. The consensus of those in attendance indicated the best date/time would be Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. This date/time will be considered when Robertson and Shaver are also present. The meeting frequency of every two weeks was discussed, while work continues between meetings. This was agreeable to those in attendance. Weidig added that the Public Defender has requested that this body provide the court with weekly updates. Serwa commented that this request for weekly court updates is a trend she has seen, but the reality is that weekly meetings are six minutes and there is no update to give.

Fruth questioned, due to the lack of response from vendors being a steady issue, if Serwa had any insight. Serwa did contact Vine and Branch out of Manitowoc and Fox Valley who had contacted her about the Waukesha area. They will keep an active eye on Waukesha properties. Some vendors are concerned about costs, some the area of the state as it relates to higher housing costs. When the changes in the law pass, vendors may be less gun shy given less risk involved. There are also some political reservations to purchase in this area of the state.

Future agenda item – discuss how the Temporary Chapter 980 Committee will proceed with the greater number of addresses opening up to vendors after the Governor signs the changes into law. Also, the new language is that the 980 Committee should “consider” proximity – define “consider”. At this point, it remains unknown what the Governor will ultimately do with the bill.

Weidig will give an update on the November 21 hearing at the next meeting.

Mrs. Waite asked if there are any ideas outside of using housing vendors to retain housing for her son. Weidig answered that the 980 Committee is also actively searching for rental properties and reaching out to landlords. Serwa talked about what other counties have done, e.g. investigating the county becoming the landlord, using Craig’s list, and nothing else has been successful for other counties.

MOTION to adjourn by Fruth, second by Serwa at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes approved: *Antwayne Robertson*
Director
Waukesha County Health and Human Services

Date: December 11, 2019